is: wth the marks posted onthet:lle page of the answers book was also conducted. As a result of this, the number of cases where an elmenl of error has been esablished after scru.iny of marks on the request of the applicant, has declined in 1992 as compared to 1991.

Famine in Bihar

*355. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press reports appearing in various newspapers in the country reporting that famine conditions are developing in the State; of Bihar due to week monsoon n the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to save Bihar from likely famine conditions in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRI CULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b) According to reports received from the Gov ernment of Bihar, the delayed and weak onset of South-West Monsoon in the month of June and the subse quent scanty precipitation in the the first 10 days of July, 1992, hampered agricultural operations and damaged paddy seedlings/trans planted crops in the State. How ever, 44 out of 50 districts in the State received encouraging rainfall during last fortnight which has been beneficial to agricultural oper ations.

(c) Bihar Govt, has reported that contingency plans have been prepared to fight probable drought/ deficient rainfall situation.

Purchase of cooking coal from Australia

*356. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether if is a fact that SAIL is going to finalise a long term contract with Australia for purchase of cooking coal in October, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited will shortly be issuing a global tender for supply of 2 million tonnes of cooking coal (with an optional quantity of 1 million tonnes) per year for a period of 5 years from Octoer, 1992. Finalisation of the contract will depend upon the response to the tender.

Bilateral negotiations with All India Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers Association

*357. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

SHRI MOHD. KHAL-EELUR RAHMAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any biteral negotiations with All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association had been held during the recent past over their demands and grievances; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has intimated that discussions